

Message Text

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BONN FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PARTY

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TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S TRIP
TO ANKARA AND SENATOR JAVITS' VISITS TO TURKEY & GREECE

REF: A) STATE 80462 B) ATHENS 2577

1. THE TRIP TO ANKARA BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRSTOPHER AND
SENATOR JAVITS' VISITS TO TURKEY AND GREECE WERE FEATURED
NEWS ITEMS IN ALL THE GREEK MEDIA MARCH 30. PRESS COVERAGE,
WHICH CALLED THE CHRSTOPHER MISSION "SIGNIFICANT", FOCUSED ON
WHAT WAS SAID TO BE ACTIVE EFFORTS BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION,
A) TO RESTORE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN,
B) TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS THROUGH
THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AND THE SIGNATURE OF THE DCA,
AND C) TO STIMULATE RENEWED MOVEMENT TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF THE
CYPRUS QUESTION BY URGING ECEVIT TO MAKE FAVORABLE PROPOSALS SOON.
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MUCH OF THE REPORTING TIED SENATOR JAVITS' VISITS TO ANKARA AND
ATHENS TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MISSION TO ANKARA AS EVIDENCE
OF RENEWED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE AREA. MOST ARTICLES ALSO
REPORTED IN VARYING DETAIL THE U.S. PRESS ITEMS CONTAINED IN
REFTEL A.

2. MOST OF THE NEWS COVERAGE WAS BASICALLY NEUTRAL IN TONE AND

ESSENTIALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS EMPHASIZED IN THEIR HEADLINES THAT THE GOG WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO. OPPOSITION TO VIMA AND ITS AFTERNOON SISTER TA NEA, IN ACCOUNTS FROM THEIR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT EFSTATHIADIS, WROTE THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO ECEVIT WAS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD LIFT THE EMBARGO IN DUE COURSE IF ECEVIT WOULD PROCEED WITH HIS PROPOSALS ON A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. THE COMMUNIST PRESS ASSOCIATED THE RENEWED AMERICAN ACTIVITY WITH THE BASIC U.S. DESIRE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO ON TURKEY.

3. THE MEDIA ALSO PLAYED PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' PUBLIC REMARKS AND SENATOR JAVITS' COMMENTS TO JOURNALISTS AFTER THEIR HOUR AND A HALF MEETING YESTERDAY. CARAMANLIS STATED: "MR. JAVITS HAS PASSED THROUGH GREECE, NOT AS A MEDIATOR, BUT IN ORDER TO HEAR THE GREEK VIEWS, MAINLY ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OUTLINE TO HIM THE ESTABLISHED POSITIONS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THE ISSUE, AND I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT MR. JAVITS HAS SHOWN UNDERSTANDING."

4. TALKING TO THE PRESS, SENATOR JAVITS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
-- HIS VISIT TO TURKEY AND GREECE WAS TO INFORM HIMSELF AND TO SEE HOW THE U.S. CAN CONTRIBUTE TO REKINDLING THE COOPERATIVE SPIRIT WHICH EXISTED IN THE ATATURK-VENIZELOS ERA; THE U.S. HAS A DILEMMA BECAUSE OF ITS RELATIONS WITH EACH NATION, BUT IS DETERMINED
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TO CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

-- HE HAD INVITED CARAMANLIS TO MEET WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHEN HE COMES TO THE U.S., AN INVITATION WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTED.

-- THE U.S. HAS A POLITICAL, SECURITY AND MORAL PROBLEM, AND THE CONGRESS MUST NOW DECIDE WHETHER TO RECONSIDER THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY IN LIGHT OF THE DCA WITH TURKEY AND THE DCA WITH GREECE WHICH STILL AWAITS SIGNATURE. THE EMBARGO IS LINKED WITH THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. IN FOSTERING PEACE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. HE HAS NOT YET MADE A PERSONAL DECISION ON WHAT POSITION HE WILL RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS ON THE EMBARGO ISSUE.

-- HE IS NOW MORE OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE ABILITIES AND STATESMANSHIP OF CARAMANLIS AND ECEVIT.

5. COMMENT: REPORTING SO FAR HAS BEEN NOTABLE FOR THE LACK OF EMOTIONAL HYPERBOLE AND ANTI-AMERICANISM WHICH MIGHT NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH MEDIA COVERAGE OF THESE SENSITIVE TOPICS.

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